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ABSTRACT

The Governor's Higher Education Advisory Commission of Delaware was established by executive order to recommend priorities to the governor and state assembly concerning higher education programs, funding, alteration or duplication of services, and facility use. Its recommendation for addressing the issue of duplication of effort or services is to establish a review board appointed by the three state institutions' trustees, which would also review facility use. Its recommendation for establishing funding priorities and guidelines is that the state legislature retain its appropriation function and authority, but that a single joint committee be designated for analysis and final recommendation of all of the state institutions' funding requests. Additionally, it is recommended that the governor designate a single administration member for funding request review. The limiting of these functions to a small group is recommended for continuity and for informed decision-making. (MSE)

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REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR
AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE STATE OF DELAWARE
BY THE GOVERNOR'S HIGHER
EDUCATION ADVISORY
COMMISSION

Executive Order 98 establishes the "Governor's
Higher Education Advisory Commission."

The stated purpose of the Commission is to make
recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly so that
as to the University of Delaware, Delaware State College,
and Delaware Technical & Community College (hereinafter the
"state institutions of higher education"), there can be established:
statewide higher education priorities, including priority
listings of programs needing support and those to be considered
for elimination or alteration because of duplication of effort
or service; recommendations for better facility usage and for
transfer of credits; and guidelines for state funding and
tuition fees.

The members appointed to the Commission are:

John Malarkey
G. Donald Dryden
David R. Keifer
E. A. Trabant
Luna I. Mishoe
Paul K. Weatherly
Ralph E. Kleinman

Harriet Williams
Mary Stein
Alice Alekman
Ralph W. Allen
James Oxford
Martha Shockley
Lawrence Taylor
Richard L. Sutton, Chairman

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Advisory Comm.

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The Commission is not funded. The Chairman of the Commission is directed to prepare its report for submission to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 15, 1976. This is that report.

The Commission understands that its stated purpose should be summarized as follows: to recommend a method or methods whereby the State of Delaware can achieve two goals: (1) the State should not fund higher education services or facilities which are unnecessarily duplicative or which cause or promote the underutilization of facilities: (2) the State must necessarily establish, from time to time, funding priorities for higher education services and facilities, because the State cannot meet all of the competing needs for its funds.

The Commission believes that different methods are required to accomplish these two goals. We turn first to the Commission's conclusions and recommendations relating to duplication of services and facilities and the underutilization of facilities.

No one's interest is served by unnecessary duplication of educational services or facilities or by the underutilization of expensive educational facilities. The Commission is satisfied that each of the state institutions of higher education recognize that it is not only its duty but in its

self-interest to eliminate waste and duplication and the underutilization of facilities. Nevertheless, the fact remains that there is no reliable mechanic to assure that duplication and underutilization does not occur, notwithstanding the best intentions of each institution acting in light of its own perceived needs.

Therefore, the Commission recommends that there be established a Board of Review consisting of nine members to be appointed three each by the three Boards of Trustees of the state institutions of higher education from their own membership.

The Board of Review would certify to the Governor and the General Assembly, in conjunction with funding requests by the state institutions of higher education, that there was no unnecessary duplication of services or facilities by those institutions or, where such duplication may occur, why it is justified or what each institution will do to eliminate it.

In making such certification the Board of Review would take into consideration the availability within the state of educational services provided by private institutions of higher education. The Legislature should make it a requirement for any private institution of higher education which receives state aid that it supply such information about its

services to the Board of Review as that Board may from time to time request.

Further, the Board of Review would certify, in conjunction with funding requests by the state institutions of higher education, that full use was being made of the facilities of the state institutions of higher education or, where underutilization may occur, why it is justified or what each institution will do to eliminate it.

In order to try to eliminate all unnecessary duplication of educational services, the General Assembly should submit to the Board of Review any request for assistance received by a private institution of higher education to determine whether giving such assistance would result in or promote duplication of a pre-existing service provided by the state institutions of higher education.

The state institutions of higher education would be responsible for supplying to the Board of Review such information as it may request in order to carry out its designated functions and such ministerial services as are necessary for the Board to act.

The Board should have no other powers or duties than as stated above. The Board should not be separately staffed. The cost of making sure that there is no duplication or underutilization should not itself become the source of any material state funding.

We turn now to the Commission's conclusions and recommendations relating to the establishment of priorities or guidelines for the funding of higher educational services and facilities when the state is unable to meet all the competing demands for its funds.

The ultimate authority and responsibility for the appropriation of state funds as between competing needs rests with the General Assembly. The Commission does not believe that the General Assembly should surrender, even if it constitutionally could, this important function with respect to education to some educational czar or super state board. Moreover, Delaware's small size and population make it possible to deal effectively with priorities without creating, as some larger more populous states have done, an expensive, separate governmental body.

However, the General Assembly cannot properly and responsibly establish priorities unless it is well-informed by the Governor and the Executive Branch as to their priorities, by the state institutions of higher education as to their priorities and their needs to carry out their critical function of educating our citizens, and by the public whose welfare is, after all, the final criteria for the establishment of priorities.

Therefore, the Commission recommends that the General Assembly designate a single joint committee to which funding

requests of the state institutions of higher education would initially be referred for analysis and for final recommendation to both House of the General Assembly. This would permit one committee to develop the expertise and experience which is necessary to make informed recommendations about priorities. The joint committee should be directed to hold well-publicized hearings in each of the three counties at which the state institutions of higher education, members of the public, and the Executive Branch should be heard with respect to funding requests from the state institutions of higher education.

Further, the Commission recommends that the Governor designate a single member of the administration who would be responsible for the Executive Branch's review of funding requests for higher education so that adequate expertise and experience can be developed in the course of an administration which will permit informed considerations and judgments on priorities by the Governor in submitting his budget and making his recommendations to the General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

December 15, 1976

Richard L. Sutton
Chairman